

# REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Chair Pagel called the regular meeting of the Dover-Eyota Board of Education, District #533, to order at 7:07 PM in the Dover-Eyota High School Media Center. Board members present: Don Andring, Julie Austinson, Dan Johnson (7:10 PM), Gene Loftus, Ron Pagel, Todd Peterson, Molly Rieke, Superintendent Bruce Klaehn and Student Board Member Laura Fierro. Absent: none. Also in attendance were Principal Todd Rowekamp, Principal Jeanne Svobodny, Curriculum Director Jane Johnson, Business Manager Gary Betcher, Administrative Assistant Chris Berg, Technology Coordinator Bryan Berg, Technology Director Loren Kiefer, Levi Lundock and Peggy Swenson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## Agenda

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Austinson and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda with the addition of accepting the resignation of Jane Borgen as Instructional Assistant.

## Visitors to Address the Board

There were no visitors to address the Board.

## Board Minutes

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Loftus and carried unanimously to approve the January 10, 2011 Organizational Board Meeting Minutes.

## Board Minutes

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to approve the January 10, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

## Regular District Bills

With Member Andring abstaining, a motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to approve the Regular District Bills totaling \$125,796.73.

## Special District Bills

A motion was made by Member Loftus, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to approve the payment of the Special District Bills totaling \$142,118.71.

## Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report with liquid assets totaling \$2,109,563.76, as well as the January electronic transfers.

## **CABINET COMMUNICATIONS**

High School Principal – Todd Rowekamp relayed the following: 1) In addition to the Board meeting, activities being held that evening included Snoball Coronation and the Junior/Senior High Math League competition. The result for the Senior High Math League team was first place in the conference, so they will now get to compete at the state meet; 2) The Senior High Knowledge Bowl participated in a recent competition and five of our teams placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 8th; 3) Several high school classes are designed to prepare students for the CLEP exam. In Honors Psychology, 21 out of 21 students who took the exam scored at the level to receive college credit. In Honors Sociology, 14 out of 18 students who took the exam scored at the level to receive college credit. Students from Honors English will take the CLEP test for that subject area this week; 4) At the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals' Conference, Nate Ecklund from the Search Institute gave a keynote presentation called "So! How Are the Adults?: Creating Conditions for School Success." His message was that happy, healthy adults working in schools

lead to a better learning environment and higher achieving students. Mr. Rowekamp used a chapter from Mr. Ecklund's book when leading the recent New Teacher Academy session.

Elementary School Principal – Jeanne Svobodny shared the following: 1) High school Peer Helpers spoke with elementary teachers about helping elementary students with friendships and bullying issues. They are currently working on a plan for the Peer Helpers to lend their support; 2) Very positive comments were received from the Instructional Assistants about the first aid training on January 21; 3) The elementary staff gave excellent evaluations about Peggy Vogel's presentation on developing common assessments; 4) All high school and elementary Hiawatha Valley Education District principals attended a special meeting on February 3 to communicate their highest priorities for services HVED provides; 5) Footsteps was awarded a \$5,000 grant to conduct the parent educator program "Love and Logic." Mrs. Deb Bebout has been trained and certified to facilitate classes for five weeks; 6) A Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant will provide approximately 50 bicycles, curriculum and a trailer for a new component to new the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Physical Education curriculum. Instructor Eric Aeschlimann will attend implementation training in March; 7) Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for the following week; 8) February is "I Love to Read Month." Mrs. Svobodny thanked Instructors Jill Magnuson and Gretchen Brinkman for organizing special student events including designing posters to make into book covers, writing a poem or song with 100 words or less, and a mystery reader via the intercom.

Curriculum Director Jane Johnson – Jane Johnson relayed the following information: 1) The Math Wizards have done an outstanding job this year and one of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams took the Top Team Overall award (out of around 32 teams) at Fillmore/Central. We also had a number of individual winners; 2) Academic Triathlon is doing well. 3) Advisor Alberto Vera has started some middle school activities including taking teams to the Future Cities competitions where they built a city on the computer and actually built a model. The group received two awards for their efforts; 4) The District Spelling Bee was held and the top two students will compete at the Regional Spelling Bee in Rochester; 5) The Science Curriculum Team continues to work on the best way to deliver the new Science standards and determine the materials needed to implement them. Mrs. Johnson, Angie Johnson and Kelly Schuette went to a RAMSP Science Educator Forum featuring a guest speaker from the Science Museum; 6) The new intervention program Read 180 that was implemented with a 7<sup>th</sup> grade group this year has been very successful and resulted in good test scores from the students who had it first semester. Read 180 implementation will now be extended to a 6<sup>th</sup> grade group. The program was purchased through stimulus money; 7) Mrs. Johnson participated in a state webinar regarding the Flexible Learning Year. It included training on how to calculate the DE data needed for the application should the Board decide to join the FLY Consortium.

#### Customer Compliments, Concerns, Complaints

Superintendent Klaehn shared the Customer Compliment, Concern, Complaint forms that had been received that month.

### **STUDENT BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

Student Board Member Laura Fierro shared the following high school news: 1) Boys' Basketball was 3 and 16; Girls' Basketball was 13 and 10 with 3 games left; Wrestling was 6 and 10; Dance placed 4<sup>th</sup> in both of their routines and were only 3 points away from going to state; Drama placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at subsections; Men's Ensemble will perform at the Mayo Gonda Building; and the Choir is making plans to again attend Chanhassen; 2) The Peer Helpers have been doing ice breaking activities with the elementary students. Laura said, "We felt we are the right people to make an impact on the younger students. We want to start building a foundation of including everyone and not allowing bullying. We have been meeting with the students for the past two weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays for ½ hour to 45 minutes;" 3) The Student Council blood drive held the previous week was very successful and she heard a lot of positive comments from the nurses; 4) A lot of fun activities are scheduled this week during Snoball including a dodge ball tournament with the top players competing on Friday afternoon. A semi-formal dance is scheduled for the end of the week; 5) That evening, the Math League team placed first in competition.

## REPORTS

### One to One Computer Initiative

Curriculum Director Loren Kiefer and Curriculum Coordinator Bryan Berg provided PowerPoint about the One to One Computer initiative. Points made included the following:

- every student would have their own Netbook laptop at a cost of around \$300 per machine (plus additional software outside of the operating system)
- students would use the laptops at school and at home
- the goals include
  - broadening the use of 21<sup>st</sup> century technology skills (problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, analyzing and communicating)
  - increasing engagement, learning opportunities, and teachable moments
  - possible increase in test scores
  - leveling the playing field
  - possibility of no traditional textbooks
- the laptops would replace the current computer labs, depending on the level of implementation
- existing labs would be used for testing
- this initiative has been piloted in Stewartville the last two years and they have found the students take ownership and better care of the equipment when it is assigned to them compared to loaned out to them
- the initiative could start this fall and would start at grade levels rather than at subject levels
  - either 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, or 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, with a possible rollout down to 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- concerns include whether current technology staff could handle the work load of the initiative (It would be a challenge but it was felt that it could be accomplished with a change in how services are provided.)
- the district's current network infrastructure is capable of handling additional computers; however, the wireless network and Internet bandwidth would need to be expanded

Mr. Kiefer and Mr. Berg provided an implementation model of the initiative that included proposed costs at the various levels of application. The initiative's first-year budget would include the donation of \$25,000 from Brad Jendersee, the \$2,000 received from IBM grants, and \$30,000 that the Technology Department has been able to set aside through conservative spending. Depending on what the legislature does with school district's finances through 2012, Mr. Klaehn expects that the initiative's yearly costs for a three-grade level program would be budget neutral.

Supt. Klaehn advised that the Frequently Asked Questions document about the initiative will be provided to staff.

Student Board Member Laura Fierro gave her opinion of the initiative including starting at 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the option for the student to search the internet for visual things to help them learn about a subject, and forming online study groups.

The Board discussed sustainability of the program and felt that the district should continue investigating the One to One Computer Initiative.

Mr. Kiefer and Mr. Berg gave a demonstration of a possible Wiki link on the school's website wherein Supt. Klaehn would be able to converse with the public on various topics (weather related school closings, the Flexible Learning Year, One to One Computer Initiative, etc.).

### Flexible Learning Year Discussion

Student Board Member Laura Fierro gave her opinion about the Flexible Learning Year option:

- In regard to 4H and FFA students missing school because of the state fair -- If school is in session a couple of weeks before, a responsible/dedicated student will obtain the homework they will miss while at the fair.
- In regard to whether or not the week before Christmas is a good time for semester tests – This is the best time to take tests rather than after Christmas when you have been out of the routine. In regard to conflict with Christmas activities, Laura felt it all had to do with setting priorities and making positive decisions affecting your education.
- In regard to the possible hot weather in the middle of August – We have air conditioning.
- Regarding summer days being better in August than May – By the last 2 weeks in August, students want to be back in school. In May, they want to be out enjoying the spring weather.

Laura felt that the FLY calendar is more logical and felt that she represented a lot of student opinions with the above comments.

The Board discussion included the following:

- What kind of questions are we unsure of that we want to ask the public? What additional feedback do we need from them to this decision?
- Are there a minimum number of schools we would want in the consortium before joining? The more schools that join, the more favorable the state will look at the program. Right now there around 23 schools who are strongly considering joining.
- What's the rush? Why do we want to start right away? Can we wait until the SW Consortium comes out with some data?
- If surrounding districts do not join and only districts further away join, will we still benefit? What is important is whether joining is in the best interest of Dover-Eyota Schools.
- If we wait to join until the second year, are we eliminating ourselves from being involved in setting up the consortium's processes (staff development, etc.)?
- Discussed the possibility of still being a part of the staff development part of the consortium and not follow the Flexible Learning Year calendar.
- Should we be concerned that our test data will not match up to the data of other districts in the state because our students had more weeks of learning before the tests? Anything we can do to "pull the lever" to increase learning and scores should be done.
- Generally, there is stronger support from our high school staff than from our elementary staff.
- What are we gaining or losing by waiting a year to join the consortium?
- If the consortium is "chopped up" (fewer schools joining or some waiting until the second year to join) and does not have a direction, the state may very well turn down the initiative.
- Is it worth the effort if we cannot continue the consortium and FLY calendar after 3 years (i.e., state decides they can no longer exist)?
- Why pay double for something you get once (pay \$10 per student the first year even if you don't join until the second year).
- Discussed suggested questions/options to bring to the consortium.

#### First Reading of the 2011-12 Proposed Calendars

Member Rieke said that the Calendar Committee developed a standard, roll-ahead calendar and a Flexible Learning Year calendar for the 2011-12 school year. There was a lot of discussion and very innovative ideas presented by the Committee about the FLY calendar. Ms. Rieke highlighted some of the days in the calendars and the reasoning behind some of the decisions made in developing each calendar.

This item will come back to the Board in March for approval.

#### Strategic Planning Update

Supt. Klaehn explained a new approach to the district's Strategic Plan in that it would be a three-year plan instead of a one-year plan. He expressed his concern that administrators are spending more time developing a new plan than they are working on the current plan. He felt that, perhaps, the one-year plan was also short sighted and not looking forward into the future. The plan would still be reported on and reviewed annually. Midyear reports by Cabinet members would be stretched out over the year instead of pressed into one or two Board meetings.

Chair Ron Pagel mentioned his discussion about this option with Supt. Klaehn and about looking at the goal early and often, and adjusting strategies to achieve the goal. The Board discussion included the fact that re-evaluating is part of the process and should not get lost since keeping the goals in focus is important. Mr. Klaehn pointed out that the administration keeps the goal in focus in many of their discussions and that going to a 3-year plan would improve the process and allow more time to work the plan rather than developing it. Principal Rowekamp said that his staff actually works on a two-year strategic plan within the high school building.

The Administrative Team will look at both the planning and reporting process in greater detail.

#### Meet & Confer

Meet & Confer Board representative Julie Austinson indicated that three agenda items were discussed at the meeting held that evening with the Dover-Eyota Education Association.

**Teacher license requirement** – Over time, the state has reduced the reading requirement for teachers to 1 hour in order to qualify for relicensure. As the state lowered their requirements for reading and increased requirements for other areas of licensure, our reading requirements haven't been lowered. The DEEA asked that the district's 5-hour requirement be reviewed for those renewing in the Summer of 2012 since teacher time is also consumed with other requirements they must meet. Curriculum Director Jane Johnson advised that the district started with an 8-hour requirement, lowered it to 5 hours, and planned to offer inservice opportunities to meet the requirements. The district hasn't kept up to that commitment due to other inservice needs. Jane Johnson will determine the requirements of other school districts and report back to the Board.

**Flexible Learning Year** – A teaching staff survey resulted in 29 in favor, 20 not in favor and 3 undecided. The semester break at Christmas was not a good thing for the elementary; however, the elementary DEEA representative said that the elementary would graciously accommodate any decision that was made.

**One to One Computer Initiative** – The DEEA's concern about this initiative is whether or not everything will work, meaning the equipment.

Member Andring, also a Board member of Meet & Confer, added that it was a good meeting with healthy discussions on workable issues. He wondered if extra laptops would be ordered to temporarily replace any that were not working and was told that was part of the plan. Mr. Andring also commented that getting out early in spring was not as favorable for elementary staff as it was for the high school staff.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Second Reading and Approval of Policy Revisions**

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve revisions of the following policies:

- 405 – Veteran's Preference
- 410 -- Family & Medical Leave Policy
- 413 -- Harassment and Violence
- 514 – Bullying Prohibition Policy
- 526 – Hazing Prohibition

### **Consider Bids for Utility Shed**

Chair Pagel advised that in February the school district had received an offer of \$2,000 for the utility shed and the Board had decided to put it out on bids. Two bids had been received with the highest one being from Peace Lutheran Church.

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Loftus, and carried unanimously to award the utility shed bid to Peace Lutheran Church with a bid of \$2,510.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2011-12 Budget Overview and Plan**

Supt. Klaehn presented a broad 2011-12 Budget Overview for general planning and sought direction from the Board whether or not to pass the reduction resolution at this meeting or table it for one month. The Board consensus was to table the reduction resolution at this time.

### **Maternity Leave Request**

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Peterson, and carried unanimously to grant a maternity leave of absence to JILL MAGNUSON from approximately April 14 through the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

### **Accept Resignation**

A motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Rieke, and carried unanimously to accept the resignation of JANE BORGES as Instructional Assistant.

### Consent - Approve Hires

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the following hires: 1) BRIAN HASLEIET as Assistant Track Coach; 2) CHAD OHL as 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Baseball Coach; 3) REBECCA QUETONE as Spring Musical Director.

### Consent - Accept Donations

A motion was made by Member Andring, seconded by Member Rieke and carried unanimously to accept the following donations: 1) High School -- \$223.02 of KWIK TRIP rebates from area donators; \$2,200 from PEOPLE'S COOPERATIVE SERVICES to Page Masters; 2) Elementary -- total PATT donations of \$21,812; \$90 to the Media Center in memory of Dorothy Pollema from her card club.

## **HEARING OF REPORTS**

### Superintendent's Report & Communication

Supt. Klaehn provided the following information: 1) He is looking forward to attending the American Association of School Administrators national conference beginning this week and hopes to return with good information to assist in making decisions on the One to One Computer Initiative and FLY calendar; 2) Several staff groups have attended the first aid training. He added, "If one staff member saves one life somehow, someday, it will be well worth it." High school teachers will attend the training this week and elementary teacher, bus drivers and Food Service staff will attend in March. Mr. Klaehn thanked the Board for adjusting the schedule to allow for the training. He also extended a big thank you to the Eyota Volunteer Ambulance crew who are providing the service free of charge; 3) With Board input, it was determined that they would meet with the high school Student Council in March, tour the high school in April and tour the elementary school in May; 4) Fall 2011 Kindergarten registration is at 90 with 71 resident students, 15 grandfathered students, and 4 new open enrolled students. There are 8 students on the waiting list. This is one of the largest resident classes for some time; 5) He will attend a school resource offer update meeting to discuss the transition of Chad Nelson going to Byron and Tracey Pagel taking his place. The group will also discuss the DARE services Tracey provides to our district; 6) Twenty teaching staff members have asked to use the Brain Honey management program for the remainder of the school year.

The Board held a general discussion on the Minnesota School Board Association Leadership Conference.

- information gleaned about the flexible learning year was beneficial in answering questions our public and staff have had about the concept
- a lot of good sessions were offered this year
- early bird session entitled "Next Generation Economy: A New Normal" was interesting and thought provoking
- the keynote speaker had a sports twist on his character and sportsmanship presentation
- votes were close in a few schools in the Southwest consortium regarding the FLY decision
- sessions on the One to One Computer Initiative and the four-day school week were beneficial
- Member Peterson learned a lot at the School Board Orientation training
- Mr. Klaehn obtained positive feedback from other superintendents that all of our Board members attended the conference

### Board of Education Committee Reports & Communication

**Loftus** – Congratulated all of the Gifted & Talented teams on their accomplishments and added, "They are a great representative of Dover-Eyota." Mr. Loftus questioned the fact that the names of individuals who submit complaint forms are deleted when they are sent to the Board. The discussion included the desire not to produce negativity toward the complainant and the need to keep allegations in the complaint confidential. It was determined that each complaint would be reviewed to determine if the complainant's name or details of the complaint should be revealed.

**Rieke** – Member Rieke expressed concern that comments on the Wiki should be reviewed before they are posted. She was also felt that the district should require the real names of those posting comments. Supt. Klaehn will look into those concerns. Ms. Rieke thanked the community members for participating in the FLY forums. She ended her report by saying that the Calendar Committee had met several times and that she found the Minnesota School Board Association's Negotiations Seminar very informative.

**Peterson** – Mr. Peterson also attended a negotiations seminar. He congratulated the Knowledge Bowl, Math, Academic Triathlon and Dance teams. About the Dance team he added, “They have done an awesome job and their improvements have been tremendous. They were only 3 points away from 1<sup>st</sup> place and going to state.”

**Johnson** – At a recent District Technology Committee meeting, the discussion included the One to One Computer Initiative.

**Andring** – Mr. Andring was pleased that Meet & Confer had been held. He had received a comment from an out-of-town bus driver who liked the bus parking lane in the high school parking lot. Member Andring referred to a Southeast Service Cooperative flyer talking about technology speaker Kevin Honeycutt, digital citizenship classroom sessions offered, as well as teaching license renewal and SmartBoard learning opportunities. The district’s Health & Safety Committee met to address a very short list of improvements that needed to be made (i.e., daisy chaining of computers, fire extinguisher logs, etc.)

**Austinson** – As a member of the Play Committee, Member Austinson was reading “West Side Story” which was being considered for the next play. She mentioned that the Meet & Confer conversations were beneficial. Mrs. Austinson ended her report by thanking the Technology Department for their “incredibly comprehensive” report that evening.

**Pagel** – The Hiawatha Valley Education District is working through issues of Winona leaving their cooperative. He would be attending a Three Rivers Conference meeting that week. Mr. Pagel learned at a recent conference that it is illegal to use a cell phone within 200 feet of a school building in Texas.

**Supt. Klaehn** – Advised the Board that a meeting had been held by Education Minnesota regarding the Public Employee Insurance Program (PEIP). Education Minnesota was obtaining information from school districts and, if they can quote health insurance for 50,000 individuals, they believe they can provide a competitive quote. The state law allows teachers to individually change to PEIP.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Member Rieke, seconded by Member Andring, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 PM.

Daniel A. Johnson, Clerk  
Cb